## Military Actions Provoke Talk of Mandatory Draft

"(a) OBLIGATION FOR YOUNG PERSONS- It is the obligation of every citizen of the United States, and every other person residing in the United States, who is between the ages of 18 and 26 to perform a period of national service as prescribed in this Act..."

If Rumsfeld’s prediction of a “long, hard slog” in Afghanistan and Iraq and a permanent state of “War on Terrorism” proves itself to be true, then it appears that the US will have no choice but to reactivate the draft. According to the Home School Legal Defense Association, the President will decide how many young Americans go to war and under what circumstances. Here’s what the HSLDA (Online) had to say about the HR 163 bill:

> THOMAS was initially created “In the Spirit of Thomas Jefferson”, and for other purposes.” The entire text of the HR 163 bill via THOMAS, a website which provides “Legislative Information on the Internet.” THOMAS was initially created “In the Spirit of Thomas Jefferson,” and is "a service of the Library of Congress”. The full text of the HR 163 bill is at http://thomas.loc.gov/

The 2005 Draft would require ALL young people ages 18 – 26 to perform a 2 year period of military service, including women. Not only would every young American be required to perform military service, according to paragraph “a”, section 2 of the HR 163 bill, every single young American would be obligated to perform some sort of military service for a minimum of 2 years. The text of Section 2, paragraph “a” of the HR 163 bill reads:

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### Military Actions Provoke Talk of Mandatory Draft

- **Date**: January 2005
- **Title**: Military Actions Provoke Talk of Mandatory Draft
- **Authors**: Anthony Guess, Misty Cook

**Summary**

- The HR 163 bill mandates a national service obligation for every U.S. citizen and every other person residing in the United States, who is between the ages of 18 and 26, to perform a period of national service as prescribed in this Act.
- The draft would require all young people ages 18 – 26 to perform a 2 year period of military service, including women.
- The full text of the HR 163 bill is available at [http://thomas.loc.gov/](http://thomas.loc.gov/).
- The 2005 Draft would require all young people ages 18 – 26 to perform military service, including women.

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### Homeless Youth Educate and Inspire at Common Cents Forum

- **Date**: December 2nd, 2004
- **Title**: Homeless Youth Educate and Inspire at Common Cents Forum
- **Authors**: Anthony Guess

**Summary**

- The presentation was put on by the Fremont Public Association's Common Cents, an organization that raises money for homeless youth.
- The panel members had wonderful things to say, for example, Rob said that everyone has problems and issues, and that homelessness is his problem.
- The presentation was held on Thursday December 2nd, 2004, at the Boomtown Cafe, citizens from around the Seattle area came to hear poetry and listen to how homelessness affects youth in the long run of life.

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### Full Text from THOMAS

- **Title**: THOMAS (The Library of Congress THOMAS)

**Description**

- THOMAS was initially created “In the Spirit of Thomas Jefferson”, and for other purposes.”
- The full text of the HR 163 bill is available at [http://thomas.loc.gov/](http://thomas.loc.gov/).

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### Letter from the Editor

- **Date**: January 2005
- **Title**: Letter from the Editor
- **Author**: Jim Theofelis

**Summary**

- Visit us online at [www.mockingbirdsociety.org](http://www.mockingbirdsociety.org) or call 206-323-5437 (KIDS)
- This month Jamaica Henderson explores Seattle online!
HAPPY NEW YEAR! WITH THE NEW YEAR COMES new opportunities to create a world in which ALL children and youth are valued, supported and honored. The Mockingbird Society is a mission-driven organization dedicated to providing public education, advocacy and positive system reform to benefit the thousands of children, adolescents and families involved in the foster/kinship care system. One of the primary strategies employed by The Mockingbird Society is the inclusion and leadership of young people who have experience with foster care and/or homelessness. We believe that to the degree young people are provided a forum to present their experiences, ideas and passions the general public and elected officials will begin to understand the hope and promise that comes with these same youth.

I want to take this opportunity to present two important opportunities for young people aging out of the system during age 18. Extending Services to Youth for Post-High School/Voc-Tec Training. Currently, young people who are in foster care and turn age 18 can remain in their foster home until they receive their high school diploma or GED. The Mockingbird Society believes that this same opportunity needs to be available to those youth who have received their high school diploma/GED and want to continue into college or a voc-tech program.

The 2005 Washington legislature will be debating this very issue. If you want to assist The Mockingbird Society and other advocates in the development of policy that allows youth to stay in care while in high school, please contact us for Youth Advocacy Day scheduled for February 11th in Olympia. This is always a remarkable day when foster and homeless youth meet directly with legislators to share ideas, hopes and dreams.

College for Washington State Foster Youth: The Governor’s Scholarship Fund is a remarkable program that continues to send youth from foster care to college. Applications are now available for high school juniors who are also in foster care. You can check out this amazing opportunity and other’s at the Washington Education Foundation at: www.waedfoundation.org or toll free at 1-877-655-0478.

Finally, The Mockingbird Society is holding it’s annual fund raiser on February 6th. If you would like to assist us either by volunteering, donating an item for our silent auction or making a cash donation please contact us at 206-323-5437 or www.mockingbirdsociety.org in your help in “building a world class foster care system while serving our neighborhood youth”. Make it a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Jim Theofelis
ejim@mockingbirdsociety.org

DRAFT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
would only be allowed to finish up their current semester before they get shipped off to the Middle East, and senior students would be fighting in this “War on Terrorism” as soon as they finished their academic year. Once Canada and higher education are no longer options for dodging the draft, Americans who currently support the U.S invasion of the Middle East will be confronted with the undeniable possibility that their own children, grandchildren, sons, daughters, brothers and sisters could be chosen by President Bush to fight in this “War on Terrorism.”

The facts suggest that if you are a young American and you are drafted in 2005, dodging the 2005 draft will be harder for you than it was for your parent’s generation in the Vietnam era.

In Part II of this series on the draft, I will be asking the Seattle community and various experts from around the world about their views on the U.S 2005 draft and the impact they believe a draft will have on the youth of this Nation and the people of the world. Be sure to check out February’s issue to read all about what this draft could mean for you, your children, your grandchildren, your sons, your daughters, your brothers and your sisters, coming from a variety of sources.

Information in this article was obtained from the following sources:
• Webster’s Concise Dictionary
• www.hsla.org/legislation/national/2003/s89/default.asp
• www.canadianbassuyi.org/order/index-en.asp
• www.urbi.org/index.php?option=content&task=viewsid=14626&temid=2

THANK YOU’S...

ABOUT US: The Mockingbird Society is a private non-profit organization dedicated to building a world class foster care system and improving the other systems that serve children and adolescents involved in homelessness and foster care. The Mockingbird Society is a monthly newspaper written and produced by youth who have experience in foster care and/or homelessness. All youth employees of Mockingbird Society are paid between $7.50 and $8.50 an hour. Additionally, youth from across the country submit articles, art work, poetry and are compensated up to $25 per published piece. The Mockingbird Times is a monthly circulation of 60,000 copies being distributed across Washington and the U.S.A, as inserts in community newspapers Real Change, Seattle Sun and South Star and a private mailing list. Youth involvement is the key to the philosophy, values, and success of The Mockingbird Society and, as such, youth are involved in all aspects of organizational development and decision-making. Donations to The Mockingbird Society may be tax-deductible and are greatly appreciated. No part of the Mockingbird Times may be reproduced without the written permission of The Mockingbird Society. All contents copyright 2005 The Mockingbird Society.

Make a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable youth and support the Mockingbird Society! Donations may be tax deductible and all donors receive the Mockingbird Times. Enclosed, please find my check made payable to Mockingbird Society in the amount of: $ ___

Suggested Donations:
$1,000+...... Protector
$500-999...... Caretaker
$250-500...... Organizations
$50+...... Supporter
$25+...... Foster Parent

NAME________________________ PHONE___________
ADDRESS_______________________ EMAIL____________________
CITY STATE ZIP

Please fill out and mail this form with a check or money order payable to: The Mockingbird Society, 2100 24th Ave South Suite 358 Seattle WA 98144

WHAT IS FAMILY? To some people family is a group of people who have similar DNA. Some consider friends to be family, but what is the difference between family and friends? I believe that if you pick your friends wisely they can be your family. They respect you, care for you and give you help when you need it. Most of my friends have taught me more than my family has. I have had more emotional support from them too, they have been all around better people than my family has. I think that in a family everyone should have love for each other.

There are so many ideas on how people think that a family should live their lives together and that’s because not everyone is raised the same. When they grow up and get married and have their kids, depending on how they were raised that is where they will get their knowledge about family.

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Positive Power: Culture of Hip Hop

Rap has changed a lot over the years. When rap started in the early seventies there was just the DJ and the Emcee. It was all about expression and having fun. Rappers rapped about anything and how good they were at rapping. There were also break dancers, taggers (people who spray paint pictures on walls) and people who freestyle rapped (rapping off the top of your head) and there were the clothes. When hip hop first started, rappers were wearing anything for leather to feathers; (now its all about the baggy style and my personal favorite hats).

It's great to be a part of the hip hop culture. Hip hop came from a very negative environment and became something great. Hip hop has broken free from race barriers and nowadays there are rappers from all sort of different backgrounds. Music collaboration has come a long way since Fab 5 Freddy and Deborah Harry from Blondie in 1980. Recently Rapper Nelly and Country music star Tim McGraw teamed up to do a song together. Collaborating with different kinds of music is a big part of hip hop because most hip hop artists want to create a sound that no one has heard before.

Rapping has done a lot for me; it's helped me improve my mental health. Rapping helps me get my feelings out and get things off my mind. Now when my friends and I have nothing to do, instead of going out and getting into trouble, we get into a circle and start rapping. So I have to give thanks to the pioneers of hip hop for creating something so beautiful. I would like to encourage people to other forms of hip hop, not just what you see on MTV. To find out about the best new underground hip hop visit www.undergroundhiphop.com.

Healthy Outlook

Fosters Independence

There are many different changes and challenges one must go through in the transition from adolescence to adulthood, between the ages of 17 and 20. Several things determine how well a person can do in what some refer to as the “real world.” The mind set of the person and how they were brought up has a lot to do with how they handle this transition.

Your mindset is important because if you are going to make the transition to adulthood successfully your philosophy about life has to make sense. It’s hard to be successful in the “real world” if you have a selfish mindset.

It is a known fact that the “real world” has no sympathy for anyone.

Everyone grows up for a reason. It was always told to me that you grow up to do one thing and that is take care of yourself. Senior year in high school has a lot to do with becoming independent. It is the gateway of life. For some young people who grew up in foster care this is what they strive for, being independent. I always remember having the right frame of mind will put you ahead of the rest because you know what you want. The hard part is pursuing what you want and not letting anything or anyone prevent you from doing so.

The way an individual was brought up has a lot to do with their relationship with the outside world. Some youth have a more sheltered life than others. For some youth it is not possible to go back home once they leave, while for others there can be a revolving door. The more time a young person has away from their comfort zone the more understanding they will get. Being in a comfort zone limits your activity with the outside world. When it is time for you to experience it for yourself and you don’t agree with it at first, you will run back to what you know instead of coping with it uncomfortable situation. Others are stuck with the situation—comfortable or not. Knowing what curve balls life brings you is important to cope with the uncomfortable situations.

What I would suggest to the people going through these changes is just be aware of everything that is going on around them. Always remember to have an open mind. Reflecting on these changes puts a person in deep thought about their future. You will come to find out that life is all about choices. Remember “the choices you make today can affect the one for tomorrow.”
ONCE A WEEK I MAKE MY WAY TO THE MOKINGBIRD TIMES OFFICE to complete my weekly eight hour shift. I really enjoy riding the bus. It gives me time to just think and stare out the window. One day not too long ago I found myself staring out the window like I would any other day. I noticed that the shapes, colors and images were not the same. On closer inspection, I realized that there was a new construction site forming on the street corner. I also noticed that there was another construction site about two blocks up the street. As the weeks went by I noticed more and more buildings popping up and being torn down.

What years ago would have seemed insignificant now had me worried. In my less than two years living in Seattle I was witnessing the transformation of a neighborhood. For those of you who don’t know the Central District in Seattle, it is an area that is rumored to be troubled with crime and poverty. When this happens to a neighborhood, property values and land prices go down. While this may have a negative effect on economic vitality of a neighborhood, it gives real estate developers an advantage.

Cheap land equals lower construction cost, which equals a higher profit to real estate developers and investors once a property and/or land is sold. Once other businesses and developers hear about what’s going on they too move quickly into a neighborhood while there is an opportunity at a reduced cost.

Initially this might seem all well and good. Residents of neighborhoods who were once marginalized suddenly find themselves surrounded by luxurious housing and businesses. But often in life what seems to be a blessing is actually a curse. The new grocery store is too expensive. The posh new houses have a higher mortgage cost and the new apparel store could eat up a week’s paycheck with one outfit. The new cafe that believed cup of morning coffee at three dollars more than the one three blocks North. All of the small businesses who thought all these new changes would bring in new customers and help their bottom line well... it turns out that because the big corporate businesses have bigger budgets and can afford to offer patrons newer, flashier products as soon as they hit the market, it forces people to get their acts together. And thus for the sake of survival, they close up shop or significantly curb their entrepreneurial ambitions. In a nutshell, gentrification has come to town.

Merriam Webster (www.m-w.com) defines gentrification as: “the process of renewal and rebuiding accompanying the influx of middle-class or affluent people into deteriorating areas that often displace earlier usually poorer residents.” In laymen’s terms, the wealthy move in and the poor move out. When the fiscal profile of a neighborhood changes drastically, the less affluent original residents have no opportunity to prepare for the change and try to stay in the community. By addressing gentrification, we as a society would be forced to admit that we are neither the land of the free nor the home of the brave.

I’ll keep this simple. Gentrification has nothing to do with money, who’s poor and who isn’t. It has everything to do with people and how they treat each other. Until people stop hating each other and trying to justify why they’re better than the guy across town, we’ll just keep running in circles until something so bad happens that it forces people to get their acts together.

Perhaps I was mistaken in saying that my solution was simple. It takes a lot of work to get things done. It takes a lot of work to make people believe in a business community to transform their relationship to the community and the “profits above all else” mentality. Perhaps, as Arthur Danto’s book shows that if we as a community can collectively stretch our hearts, minds and spiritual muscles; we’ll soar over any obstacle yet to come.

A new cafe pops up and is torn down. A new housing complex is built. As the weeks go by I can see the change happening all around me. The neighborhood I once knew is changing. I have been living in this area for over two years and I am witnessing the changes that are happening all around me.

The deadline to apply for Washington State’s Governor’s Scholarship for Foster Care Youth is March 2nd, 2005 To find out more information and how to apply, go to www.waedfoundation.org or call 1-877-655-4097

**Movie Review:** **The Incredibles**

**Courtney Konetzko**

**The Incredibles was actually INCREDIBLY FUNNY!** Pixar is amazing! The animation was very good with some of the characters sporting hair worthy of a Pantene commercial. The plot was no disappointment because it kept giving you more when you thought it was coming to an end — without going out to far.

I thought that *The Incredibles* was going to be just some dumb Disney flick with some ‘incredibly fat man’ in a red suit advertised on the sides of Metro busses. However, the IMDB Base (IMDB), the god of movie databases, rated it a 8.3, which convinced me to go see it. I was looking for something light that would make me laugh and I am trying to see new movies. For the most part, IMDB is an excellent resource for finding films to see and an entertaining cite to boot!

*The Incredibles* is a feel good film, an action-packed silly pace of the film is fast. It feels like an original piece, not some washed up Marvel wannabe. Yeah Pixar! Four out of five birds!

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**Filmmaker Moore’s Speech Provokes Thought**

**Anthony Guess**

The Incredibles

Merriam Webster online dictionary (www.m-w.com) defines gentrification as "the process of renewal and rebuiding accompanying the influx of middle-class or affluent people into deteriorating areas that often displace earlier usually poorer residents.”

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**Family Continued from Page 2**

What about adopted family, are they any different from blood relatives? They are different because foster care has more child abuse records then a regular family but I think that what happens in a foster family can also happen in a biological family. What’s the difference? Is it the same family? Their whole family all works together and gets along peacefully. At first when you see this family on TV you may feel jealous that you don’t have the nice house and all the toys, but you have to remember that these families are not real they are fake They are what someone wanted their family to be like so the made it real on TV. That is what I feel that a TV family is, over all they’re not real they are what other people wanted the family to be like.

My mentor looks out for me and wants me to do the best I can in school and thinks about my safety. For example, my mentor, Mr. Incredible, is a freakish fire-haired geek who always wanted to be a superhero as a small child but was snubbed by Mr. Incredible who always said, “I work alone” whenever Syndrome appeared.

With his technological advances like rocket boosters on his feet that enable him to fly he plots the demise of other super heroes out of greed and despair and mimics being a human-made super hero himself. Mr. Incredible says, “I work alone” a lot and one of the lessons he has to learn in this film is to let other people help him and the concept of team work.

The special effects in *The Incredibles* are good and the pace of the film is fast. It feels like an original piece, not some washed up Marvel wannabe. Yeah Pixar! Four out of five birds!